

CHARTER REVISION COMMISSION

MEETING MINUTES

MARCH 23, 2011

Commission Members in attendance: John P. Chiota, Esq.; Chairman; William S. Holden, Vice Chairman; Gail J. Hanna, Secretary; Russell Friedson and Paul Timpanelli.

Commission members not in attendance: James Cordone, Esq.

Called to Order: 7:05PM

Approval of Minutes

The Minutes of March 09, 2011 were amended as follows:

- Page 2, **Section 3. Board of Education**
- Replace the first sentence with: “ **R. Friedson spoke in favor of changing the Board of Education to have more people so they can have more oversight.**”
- Replace the second sentence with: “**The members should face election not to be appointed by their respective town committees.**”
- Page 2, Paragraph 8, replace “carried” with “**failed**”.
- Page 3, Paragraph 9, replace “Session” with “**comments**”.
- Page 4, Paragraph 6, replace “Session” with “**comments**”.
- Page 4, Paragraph 11, **Jury Commission**, replace “Arty.” with “**Atty.**”.

Motion made by R. Friedson to approve the Minutes dated March 09, 2011 as amended, seconded by G. Hanna.

Vote: Motion carried unanimously.

Motion made by G. Hanna to approve the Minutes of March 16, 2011, seconded by P. Timpanelli.

Vote: Motion failed. Abstention: R. Friedson.

J. Chiota indicated the Town Council adopted the Resolution for the first draft of the Charter revision due on June 1, 2011.

Park Commission, Recreation Commission, Youth Commission - Combining and Field-Usage

J. Chiota indicated the Park Commission and Recreation Commission have approved the field-use policy and it has also been submitted to Tim Herbst. J. Chiota also indicated that Tim Herbst would still like to combine the Park Commission, the Recreation Commission and the Youth Commission. Therefore, G. Hanna will arrange to have the chairpersons of the Park Commission, Recreation Commission and the Youth Commission attend the next Charter Revision meeting on March 30, 2011.

J. Chiota discussed supplemental appropriation with the commission members submitted by Maria Pires, Finance Director. He noted that he has not had a chance to review it completely and that more clarification from M. Pires for the Board of Education and Town Budget is needed.

M. Pires attended the meeting at 7:20PM. She discussed with the members supplemental appropriations. M. Pires noted that her research went back 5 years and that if necessary, she can go back further. Noting the highest supplemental appropriate was in 2009 at 3% (\$600,000) due to the Board of Education and in 2008 below 2% (\$500,000). Indicating that simple majority over \$2,000 goes to the Town Council for approval.

Maria Pires left the meeting at 7:29PM.

Purchasing Section

J. Chiota indicated he has still not received anything regarding purchasing from Robert Cimini. He submitted the purchasing section from Norwalk for use as an example.

J. Chiota received information on two cases from R. Maslan and R. Maslan indicated that the "Initiative Provision" should be taken out.

Section 8. Initiative

W. Holden and R. Friedson inserted new language at the end of the paragraph "**except as otherwise prohibited by State Statute**".

The commission members also discussed the following changes to **Section 8. Initiative**:

- A. (Page 46) insert: "**Municipal**" (between "last" and "election").
- A. Reference to Section 9 (which has been deleted). Change Section 9. to leave blank until all sections are numbered correctly.

Regarding the town purchasing policy, G. Hanna submitted Trans Canada Contract which she copied for the commission members for their as a reference. G. Hanna suggested that the Town Purchasing Policy should not hold the new administration to a 5-year contract. She also suggested this should be included in the Charter.

Further, G. Hanna suggested that bid waivers in excess of \$500,000 should go to the Town Council for approval and also be included in the Charter.

The commission members agreed to have a Public Hearing scheduled for Wednesday, April 27, 2011 at 7:30PM or Thursday, April 28, 2011 at 7:30PM whichever date the Council Chambers is available. They discussed the possibility of having the Charter available in a printed version for the Public Hearing and that the printing and publication of the first draft of the Charter be available via email and/or on the Town web site.

J. Chiota noted the Agenda for the next meeting should cover Chapters II, III and IV, term of the First Selectman, council setup and budget referendum.

Also, the Clerk of the Charter Revision Commission should arrange with the Town Council Commission Clerk, Margaret Mastroni, to schedule the "*Acceptance of the First Draft of the Charter Revision*" on the Agenda of the Town Council dated May 2, 2011.

Adjourned: 8:10PM

The next Charter Revision Commission Meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, March 30, 2011.

Respectfully submitted:

Marilou Mangiamele, Clerk